

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-42 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment. Claims 8, 14, 25, 30, 34-36 and 40-42 are being amended. Claim 9 was previously canceled. No new matter is presented. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

In the Office Action mailed October 13, 2009, Examiner Phu indicated that claims 1-8, 10-13, 17-33 and 37-39 are allowable. Claims 14-16, 34, 35, 40 and 41 were rejected; and claims 36-42 were objected to. Applicant thanks Examiner Phu for allowing claims 1-8, 10-13, 17-33 and 37-39.

In addition, Applicant thanks Examiner Phuong Phu for agreeing to conduct a telephonic interview with Mr. Eric M. Ringer, on November 16, 2009, in which amendments to claims 14, 34-36 and 42 were discussed and for agreeing to allow the discussed amendments to be entered. In the interview, Examiner Phu indicated that the amendments to claims 14, 34-36 and 40-42 overcame the previously cited references.

Even though claims 8, 25 and 30 were not discussed in the interview, Applicant has amended claims 8, 25 and 30 to correct typographical errors.

Claims 14, 34-36 and 40-42 are amended in the manner discussed with Examiner Phu on November 16, 2009.

In particular, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite add allowable subject matter from claim 9. Therefore, claim 14 and its dependent claims 15 and 16 are allowable.

Claim 34 has been rewritten to depend directly from allowed claim 17. Therefore, claim 34 is allowable.

Claim 35 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 17 and is therefore also allowable.

Claim 36 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 31 and is therefore also allowable.

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Claim 40 has been rewritten to depend directly from allowed claim 31. Therefore, claim 40 is allowable.

Claim 41 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 20 and is therefore also allowable.

Claim 42 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 20 and is therefore also allowable.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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